

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN SEPTEMBER 2006

Domestic primary aluminum production in September was 182,535 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,085 t, about 2% higher than that of the previous month but 8% below the rate for September 2005. Production for the first 9 months of 2006 was about 8% lower than that for the comparable period in 2005. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot in September held steady at \$1.170 per pound, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) trended downward during September. The price range began the month at 80–82 cents per pound and increased briefly to 83–85 cents per pound on September 8. On September 12, the price range decreased to 81–83 cents per pound, and on September

19, it decreased again to 79–81 cents per pound. On September 26, the price range decreased to 77–79 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the month.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot in October increased to \$1.241 per pound. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs fluctuated during October but closed the month at a higher level than that at the end of September. On October 3, the price range increased to 79–81 cents per pound. On October 17, it increased slightly to 80–81 cents per pound before falling to 77–79 cents per pound on October 24. On October 31, the price range increased to 81–83 cents per pound.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2005	2,481	1,930	1,060	2,990	3,660	1,190	4,850	10,300	1,430
2005:									
September	199	157	91	248	282	97	379	827	1,590
October	207	161	95	256	298	94	393	856	1,550
November	204	151	84	236	240	91	330	770	1,440
December	208	143	82	225	299	89	388	821	1,430
January-September	1,862	1,460	855	2,310	2,820	917	3,740	7,920	1,590
2006:									
January	197	168	89	257	348	97	445	898	1,490
February	179	161	84	244	247	87	333	757	1,680
March	198	168	92	259	289	104	393	850	1,480
April	190	160	88	248	353	103	456	894	1,480
May	197	161	89	250	318	106	424	870	1,430
June	189	162	92	254	298	109	407	849	1,430
July	192	165	92	256	249	111	360	808	1,430
August	185	166	109	275	315	111	426	887	1,480
September	183	159	87	246	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-September	1,710	1,470	822	2,290	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

²Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

³Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

⁴Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery
2005	1,700	1,310	815	725	926	867	90	80	10	9	3,540	2,990
2005:												
September	148	107	65	58	80	75	8	7	(2)	(2)	302	248
October	154	112	66	59	83	78	8	7	(2)	(2)	312	256
November	138	101	62	55	77	72	8	7	(2)	(2)	285	236
December	129	93	63	56	74	69	8	7	(2)	(2)	274	225
January-September	1,320	956	632	562	774	725	74	65	(2)	(2)	2,800	2,310
2006:												
January	135	100	76	68	87	81	8	7	(2)	(2)	306	257
February	131	96	78	70	76	71	8	7	(2)	(2)	293	244
March	141	103	81	73	82	77	8	7	(2)	(2)	312	259
April	135	97	80	72	77	72	8	7	(2)	(2)	300	248
May	138	100	65	58	90	84	8	7	(2)	(2)	301	250
June	138	100	74	66	86	81	8	7	(2)	(2)	307	254
July	136	99	76	68	88	82	8	7	(2)	(2)	308	256
August	167	126	71	64	83	78	8	7	(2)	(2)	330	275
September	135	99	73	65	80	75	8	7	(2)	(2)	296	246
January-September	1,260	919	674	604	748	700	72	63	4	4	2,750	2,290

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN SEPTEMBER 2006¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	113,000	135,000	82,200	98,700
Integrated aluminum companies	72,800	72,800	65,300	65,300
Independent mill fabricators	66,400	79,700	62,300	74,800
Foundries	6,460	7,760	5,670	6,800
Other consumers	536	643	536	643
Total	259,000	296,000	216,000	246,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN SEPTEMBER 2006¹

(Metric tons)

	September				January-September ²	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	20,900	75,900	77,900	18,900	698,000	699,000
Can stock clippings	1,890	15,800	15,900	1,840	167,000	168,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	4,270	21,700	21,700	4,330	196,000	196,000
Casting	1,390	8,070	7,650	1,810	71,600	71,800
Borings and turnings	2,720	10,900	11,200	2,350	100,000	101,000
Dross and skimmings	3,550	33,700	33,900	3,400	313,000	314,000
Total new scrap	34,700	166,000	168,000	32,700	1,550,000	1,550,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	2,940	15,400	14,800	3,470	137,000	137,000
Used extrusion	423	1,390	1,390	426	11,300	11,300
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	1,620	55,000	54,700	1,880	527,000	525,000
Other wrought products	2,340	5,290	5,290	2,340	48,800	48,800
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	4,250	10,700	13,500	1,400	105,000	126,000
Total old scrap	11,600 ^r	87,700	89,800	9,510	829,000	849,000
Sweated pig	198	790	790	198	7,200	7,200
Total all classes	46,500 ^r	255,000	259,000	42,400	2,380,000	2,410,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes revised data from previous month(s).

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2006^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	September				January-September ³	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,040	1,380	1,470	2,950	12,900	12,700
380 and variations	1,940	16,600	15,200	3,420	142,000	144,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,110	1,710	1,670	1,150	15,400	15,300
No. 319 and variations	2,220	3,770	4,050	1,940	50,300	50,000
F-132 alloy and variations	676	1,310	1,300	688	15,000	15,200
Al-Zn alloys	312	184	183	314	1,970	1,950
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	41	24	24	41	217	217
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	283	411	411	283	3,700	3,700
Other ⁴	4,180	8,050	7,530	4,700	71,900	72,500
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,500	19,600	19,700	10,400	179,000	179,000
Total all alloys	24,300	53,100	51,500	25,900	492,000	494,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,510	XX	XX	91,700	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,350	XX	XX	22,300	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	515	XX	XX	7,910	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	40,800	XX	XX	370,000	XX

¹Revised. XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes revised data from previous months.

⁴Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁵No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2006¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	August	January- August	August	January- August	August	January- August	August	January- August
Argentina	5,780	36,500	19	97	--	--	5,800	36,600
Australia	9,650	40,400	67	130	--	338	9,710	40,900
Bahrain	6,710	57,300	301	9,840	--	--	7,020	67,100
Belgium	14	119	886	4,710	--	122	900	4,950
Brazil	11,600	98,200	3,610	19,300	--	634	15,200	118,000
Canada	160,000	1,340,000	47,800	364,000	32,500	230,000	241,000	1,930,000
China	11,900	34,800	16,300	108,000	--	3	28,100	143,000
France	90	530	503	3,480	20	56	613	4,070
Germany	327	3,980	12,200	84,100	9	205	12,500	88,300
Hungary	--	--	229	2,100	--	--	229	2,100
Italy	--	157	149	1,880	--	--	149	2,040
Japan	8	278	1,080	11,300	60	554	1,140	12,200
Korea, Republic of	103	200	221	2,080	--	155	324	2,430
Mexico	196	651	1,670	14,100	9,380	82,100	11,200	96,800
Netherlands	48	573	197	1,370	--	102	245	2,050
Norway	35	214	37	190	--	--	71	405
Russia	80,900	475,000	4,760	31,500	--	3,170	85,700	510,000
South Africa	4,810	64,300	2,690	36,000	--	--	7,500	100,000
Spain	--	122	82	874	--	--	82	996
Sweden	--	1,640	523	3,390	--	31	523	5,070
Switzerland	--	1,100	689	3,900	--	--	689	5,000
Tajikistan	--	25,700	--	--	--	--	--	25,700
United Arab Emirates	9,410	70,700	--	3	260	313	9,670	71,000
United Kingdom	374	30,400	468	4,110	149	1,460	991	36,000
Venezuela	7,580	105,000	1,040	12,000	222	1,860	8,830	119,000
Other	5,630	32,400	15,200	108,000	3,620	29,200	24,500	170,000
Total	315,000	2,420,000	111,000	827,000	46,300	350,000	472,000	3,590,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2006¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	August	January- August	August	January- August	August	January- August	August	January- August
Australia	35	209	187	1,230	--	42	222	1,480
Belgium	146	939	347	4,860	--	309	493	6,110
Brazil	9	91	772	3,900	76	209	857	4,200
Canada	9,370	85,600	46,000	331,000	12,800	101,000	68,100	518,000
China	31	2,160	3,400	23,300	78,000	618,000	81,500	643,000
Czech Republic	--	(2)	29	114	--	--	29	114
Dominican Republic	--	83	45	218	--	40	45	341
France	2	70	1,060	8,920	17	22	1,080	9,010
Germany	55	323	929	7,460	103	216	1,090	8,000
Hong Kong	8	1,060	1,520	7,200	1,100	14,700	2,630	23,000
India	19	222	99	417	898	5,360	1,020	6,000
Israel	85	824	329	2,690	--	--	414	3,510
Italy	(2)	393	203	3,440	--	--	203	3,840
Japan	660	6,970	1,410	14,200	2,550	30,100	4,620	51,200
Korea, Republic of	--	664	1,220	9,480	14,700	95,700	16,000	106,000
Malaysia	4	43	429	2,550	156	1,860	589	4,460
Mexico	19,800	137,000	21,800	182,000	7,760	70,200	49,400	389,000
Netherlands	10	93	137	552	--	228	147	873
Russia	--	165	4	133	19	19	23	317
Saudi Arabia	1	3	2,820	21,800	--	(2)	2,820	21,800
Singapore	35	88	214	1,350	--	--	249	1,440
Spain	4	30	96	848	--	7	100	885
Sweden	--	1	5	79	--	--	5	80
Taiwan	3	253	350	6,330	2,520	38,800	2,870	45,400
Thailand	72	1,310	276	5,230	863	9,440	1,210	16,000
Ukraine	--	--	17	18	--	--	17	18
United Kingdom	32	228	1,620	12,600	48	373	1,700	13,200
Venezuela	--	21	610	1,470	(2)	1	611	1,500
Other	1,620	6,040	3,830	29,000	3,150	28,600	8,600	63,600
Total	32,000	245,000	89,800	682,000	125,000	1,020,000	247,000	1,940,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.